

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph [0030] beginning at page 6 with the following rewritten paragraph:

[0030] The introducer needle 12 of the present invention differs from those that are commercially available by the application of an outer electrically insulating coating 30 that produces a circumferentially continuous insulated section 18 extending along the tube 14 less than the full length of the tube 14 so as to expose a proximal end 20 of the tube 14 and a distal end 22 of the tube 14. The exposed portion of the proximal end 20 in a preferred embodiment extends 4 mm and is preferably less 2 centimeters.